IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claim 9 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), amended claim 9 is set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this Amendment:

9. (amended) The public key certificate issuing method according to claim 6, wherein at least one of said plurality of certificate authorities executes processing of storing a generated signature and signature information including signature algorithm information associated with said generated signature into an extended area of said public key certificate.